Surveillance to identify iodine deficient areas

494. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the surveillance was carried out to identify the specific areas of iodine deficiency in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons why iodised salt is made available all over the country irrespective of its dire requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per Surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and Health Institutions out of 324 districts surveyed covering all the States/Union Territories, 263 districts are endemic i.e. where the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency disorders is more than 10%. Thus no State/Union Territories is free from Iodine Deficient Disorder.

Banning of non-iodised salt

495. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that use of non-iodised salt has been banned nation-wise;

(b) if so, whether any exceptions are given to the States or regions where iodine deficiency was not found; and

(c) whether hilly and tribal areas were excluded from this ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In the interest of public health, restrictions have been imposed nation wide on the sale of edible common salt for direct human consumption unless the same is iodised under the PFA Act 1954 and Rules 1955 with effect from 17th May 2006. Common salt may however be sold for iodization, iron fortification, animal use, preservation, manufacturing medicine and industrial use.